but without fathers. It would surely be sounder policy to take the line of the less extreme—the "Woman Movement" rather than the "Mutterschütz Movement"—and work for better conditions and a nobler kind of marriage, than thus to sacrifice the interests of the child to the supposed interests of the mother. But it is a curious revenge on the old one-sided teaching on the single duty of women to become the mothers of many children and not to trouble their heads about public affairs or "gainful" industry, that the extreme feminist is now teaching in some places the *right* to fulfil what has been preached *ad nauseam* as a *duty*, and exploiting in its interests the desperate sense of inferiority which age-long derision has induced in the childless woman. A. M. R.

Miner, MAUD. *The Slavery of Prostitution.*

THE problem of the social evil has until recently been considered as an isolated phenomenon, unrelated to the whole social system, and as such was left to be dealt with by a few specialists whose labours received little sympathy or interest from other social workers.

That a different and a wider view has gradually superseded the older conception is due to the efforts to bring a more scientific spirit to bear on the subject, and in this attempt America is in advance of England. Already quite a bibliography has grown up on the subject, and Miss Miner's book is a valuable contribution to it.

Her knowledge is derived from twenty years' experience of probation work in the night court in New York, where her understanding and skill in dealing with the flotsam and jetsam of girl-life, have made her the trusted friend of hundreds of young women who might but for her help have been submerged.

The book, with its dispassionate account of the causes of prostitution, is an indictment of society for its neglect to provide the needful environment and help for childhood and adolescence, and for its lax administration of the law against those who exploit the inexperienced and the helpless.

Miss Miner's investigations into hundreds of cases reveal the fact that the gradual moral degradation that ends in the girl's life on the streets comes through bad homes—bad frequently through the impossible conditions of extreme poverty or the emigrant parent's ignorance of the new country; through evil influences in places of recreation; through occupational and economic conditions, and, last but not least, the procurer. This mass of information throws a flood of light on the way into and the way out of the underworld, and the note of hope in all this misery is the fact that many of the causes are capable of removal, given a quickened social conscience and sufficient energy.

In this country the *rôle* played by the procurer in the fall of a girl is reckoned rather a myth. It remains for those who deal with girls as thoroughly as Miss Miner to destroy this belief if it is a fallacy, though it is reasonable to suppose that the procurer plays a more important part in the fall of an emigrant girl in America than with the English girl at home. The methods of the trafficker have always been difficult to lay bare, but enough is exposed in this volume to stimulate a public demand for greater vigilance and severity on the part of magistrates and police, since faked marriages, desertion, enforced immorality, bogus offers of employment and violence are all within the scope of the law.

The allusion to numerous commissions of inquiry into vice conditions in America remind us that no investigation of the kind has yet been held in England, and one of Miss Miner's most valuable suggestions is that every city should have its permanent organisation charged with the duty "of knowing whether the laws are enforced and with giving authoritative facts to the public and upholding the efforts of officials whose duty it is to enforce them."

Several chapters are devoted to probation work, to farm colonies, and to an account of Waverley House and its country rest-home at Hillcrest Farm. Through the exertions of Miss Miner, Waverley House, a non-official receiving-home in connection with the night court, was opened, thus supplying a want in New York that is still felt in London. A week's remand in prison, or even admission to a shelter or a rescue-home, whilst inquiries are being made is not always the best course to pursue; but even these places were frequently not available, and the house was finally opened under the direction of the New York Probation Association.

The addition of Hillcrest Farm is yet another proof of the common-sense and humanity with which the work of the night court is supplemented, for recognition is thus given to the fact that many women fail through over-fatigue and consequent discouragement, and this provision is made to meet their need. All who lodge in Waverley House are offered medical help of which they gladly avail themselves. The Simon-Binet system is used to ascertain their mental condition, and Wasserman tests are made. By these means loss of time, useless expenditure and random efforts at help are avoided.

Prison for young women in New York has given way to the more enlightened plan of sending them to Bedford Hills Training School, where out-door life, educational classes, physical culture and healthy recreation brace mind and body to face life with altered ideals and increased courage.

One of Miss Miner's hopes for the future is the appointment of a permanent Commission to receive under commitment girls and women convicted by the Courts. This Commission would undertake a thorough investigation of each case, so that the help best calculated to restore the women to normal citizenship may be given with as little delay as possible. No police would serve on the Commission.

If the suggestions in the last two chapters are almost too numerous to leave a clear impression on the mind, it is due rather to the complexity of the problem than to any vagueness in the thought of the writer. The social evil has not one cause, but many; the indirect attack will ultimately bear more fruit than any other, and for ultimate success it will be necessary to mobilise the whole forces of society. F. J. W.

Deshumbert, M. *An Ethical System based on the Laws of Nature.* Translated from the French by Lionel Giles, M.A., D.Litt. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company; pp. 231; price 2s. 6d.

THIS book, which has already been translated into seven languages, and will shortly appear in three others, is an attempt to prove that all the operations of Nature are directed by will, intelligence, and ethical purpose, and that essentially "morality is the Nature of things." It contains much interesting matter and is the work of a man of wide culture and philosophic mind, though opinions will probably differ regarding the success which has attended his efforts to establish his ambitious thesis. That thesis is formulated as follows:—Nature always tends to produce life in its most active form, and in the struggle for existence those beings are most favoured by the operation of Nature's laws who possess in the highest degree the greatest number of qualities, both mental and moral. The object pursued by Nature is not merely life, but life reaching the highest possible pitch of activity, morality, and intelligence—in a word, the life that is in all respects most complete, due regard being had to time, circumstances, and environment. The author takes a wide survey of the vegetable and the animal kingdom, and draws attention to the various protective and recuperative devices which vegetables and animals possess, and to the large part which mutual help plays in the animal kingdom. Prince Kropotkin's work in this connection will be remembered. This section of the work may be commended to